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<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/585,820	MERCOLONO ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	James L. Grun	1641	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 27 December 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16, 20, 29, 22, 23, 49, 31, 51, 33-35, and 43, renumbered as claims 1-12, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 6/1/00 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>7/1/04</u></li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date <u>03072005</u>.</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.</li> </ol> |
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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Ms. Catherine K. Gowen on 07 March 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 32, 36, 37, 39-42, 45, and 46 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer thereto.

The following listing of claims replaced all prior versions:

-- 16. (Currently amended) A method of analyzing ABO blood type in a reverse test, comprising:

(a) admixing a sample of blood with first reagent red blood cells bearing A antigen and with second reagent red blood cells bearing B antigen, wherein ~~such~~ said admixing is performed in a single column;

(b) ~~allowing~~ incubating the admixture under conditions sufficient for agglutination to occur ~~agglutinate~~;

(c) subjecting the incubated admixture in the single column to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis to determine agglutination of said first and/or second reagent red blood cells or lack thereof; and

(d) analyzing the visual or automated computerized imaging analysis of agglutination to determine ABO reverse type.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein one of said first or second reagent red blood cells of step (a) are distinguishably stained.

22. (original) The method of claim 29 wherein the column agglutination technology is a column agglutination test reaction and separation vessel in cassette form.

23. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 22 wherein an agglutination is determined with the automated computerized imaging system ~~is employed to interpret an agglutination result.~~

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20 wherein the single column subjected to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis is selected from the group consisting of tube and column agglutination technology.

31. (Currently amended) A method of simultaneous ~~ABO~~ antibody testing of a blood sample using two cell populations, comprising:

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(a) admixing a sample of blood with a first group of reagent red blood cells bearing a first antigen and a second group of reagent red blood cells bearing a second antigen, wherein one group of said reagent red blood cells are distinguishably stained, such and wherein said admixing is performed in a single column;

(b) ~~allowing~~ incubating the admixture under conditions sufficient for agglutination to occur agglutinate;

(c) subjecting the incubated admixture in the single column to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis to determine agglutination of said first and/or second group of reagent red blood cells or lack thereof; and

(d) analyzing the visual or automated computerized imaging analysis of agglutination to determine ~~ABO-type~~ anti-first and/or second antigen antibodies in the sample.

33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 32 31 wherein the single column subjected to visual or automated computerized imaging analysis is selected from the group consisting of tube and column agglutination technology.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33 wherein the column agglutination technology is a column agglutination test reaction and separation vessel in cassette form.

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35. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 34 wherein ~~an~~ agglutination is determined with the automated computerized imaging system ~~is employed to interpret an~~ agglutination result.

43. (Currently amended) The ~~kit of claim 42~~ method of claim 31 wherein the first and second groups of reagent red blood cells are independently selected from ~~the group~~ consisting of groups A1, A2, B, O, D, C, E, c, e, M, N, S, s, P1, Lea, Leb, K, k, Jsa, Fya, Fyb, Jka, Jkb, Lua, ~~and~~ or Lub.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the sample of blood is serum or plasma.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31 wherein the sample of blood is serum or plasma.

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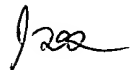
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James L. Grun, Ph.D., whose telephone number is (571) 272-0821. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le, SPE, can be contacted at (571) 272-0823.

The phone number for official facsimile transmitted communications to TC 1600, Group 1640, is (571) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application, or requests to supply missing elements from Office communications, should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James L. Grun, Ph.D.

March 8, 2005



CHRISTOPHER L. CHIN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 1800-1641

3/12/05